

## Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

### NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Pete McDonough  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: August 7, 1998

#### Whitman Statement on Inspection Contract

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman expressed support for the Treasurer's decision to enter into a contract with Parsons Infrastructure Group to provide an enhanced auto inspection system. Whitman said the contract is, "in the best interests of the public health and the public pocketbook."

"The development of an enhanced auto inspection system is required by state and federal law. Our ability to protect the public health, to secure federal highway funding and to prevent the imposition of crippling federal sanctions on New Jersey businesses requires this contract to move forward," Gov. Whitman said.

"The legislature recognized the importance of complying with the federal Clean Air Act when it approved the Clean Air Compliance Act which provides for a privately operated inspection system such as the one envisioned in this contract," she said.

"The costs of not complying with the Clean Air Act are enormous. Nearly \$1 billion in annual federal highway funds would be jeopardized. The EPA's sanctions against New Jersey industry would require a doubling of emissions credits which would pose a very real and direct threat to jobs in New Jersey," the Governor said.

"Perhaps most important is the reality that by continuing to fall short of the EPA's standards for clean air, our public health is threatened. More than 300,000 New Jerseyans suffer from respiratory diseases that are linked to air quality. Air pollution is particularly dangerous for the very young and the elderly. We owe them cleaner air to breathe," she said.

"The contract signed by the Treasurer today is very complex and comprehensive. It includes strict timetables and performance standards that I expect the contractor to meet. The contractor's performance will receive the closest scrutiny possible," she added.

The Governor and Treasurer will be meeting with the top executives from Parsons next week to underscore and clearly reinforce the state's expectations from the firm.